

# Childproofing Your Home

Children need constant supervision and homes that have been assessed to improve their chances of not being hurt due to avoidable accidents. In all rooms use outlet covers to prevent children from sticking fingers or other objects in electrical outlets.

## Kitchen and Dining Room:

- Cook using the back burners of your stove and turn pot handles toward the rear of the stove so your child can't pull hot food on them.



- Place the microwave oven out of the reach of your children so they can't place anything in the oven or push any buttons.

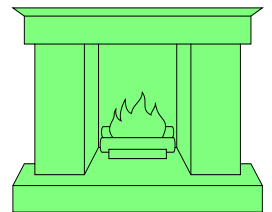
- Keep all sharp utensils in a childproofed drawer or cabinet.

- Install childproof locks on drawers and cabinets that are within a child's reach.

- Unplug appliances when not in use.
- Store poisons, cleaning products, and plastic bags in a locked childproof cabinet.
- If you have a garbage disposal, use a switch blocker to prevent children from turning it on.
- Install an oven latch and appliance latches.
- Keep wastebaskets covered or out of reach of children.
- Keep doors to your pantry, closet, or washroom locked.
- Secure booster chairs firmly to chairs to prevent children from slipping and sliding.

## Family Room:

- Install window preventers and sliding glass locks. These items allow you to open windows and doors, but prevent children from opening them.
- Ensure all carpets are firmly tacked or taped in place.
- Install corner cushions on your tables to protect your children when they fall.
- Install a Fireplace Hearth protector, or block the fireplace off.
- Remove small objects from lower shelves. These may pose a choking hazard.
- Keep blind-cords out of the reach of children. Either wind up the cords or tie them near the top of the blind.
- Use a VCR lock to prevent children from placing unwanted items in the VCR.



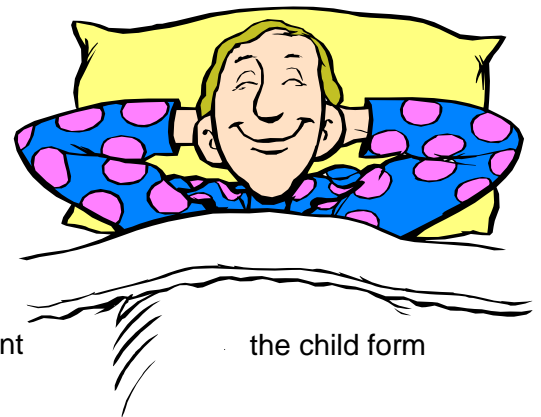


### Stairways and Banisters:

- Keep stairways properly illuminated.
- Use gates to prevent children from playing on stairs.
- Use doorknob locks to prevent children from opening doors to the basement and other unsafe areas.
- Banister rails should be no more than four inches apart. Larger openings permit children to place their head between the rails and get injured.
- Make sure handrails and banisters are secure.

### Bedrooms and Cribs:

- Don't buy an older, used crib. It could be missing parts.
- Corner posts should not extend more than 1/16<sup>th</sup> of an inch above the end panel.
- Posts should not be more than 2 3/8ths inches apart to prevent the child from getting stuck.
- All hardware should be tight fitting and secure.
- The mattress should fit snugly in the crib frame to prevent getting stuck and suffocating.
- Always keep the side-rail up when the child is using the crib.
- Keep mobiles and toys out of the reach of infants.
- Use bed rails to prevent the child from falling out of the bed.
- Do not permit the baby to sleep on a waterbed. The baby can roll on its stomach and suffocate.
- Do not place furniture under windows.
- Install window locks. These allow you to open the window to a safe distance (4 inches), but prevent children from opening the windows any further. Screens will not prevent children from falling out of a window.
- Put all toys away at the end of the day, and use a night-light. Children can trip on toys while attempting to use the bathroom at night.



### Bathrooms:



- Never leave water in tub, sink, bucket or ANY container a child could drown.
- Use a non-slip mat or stickers in the tub to prevent falls.
- Remove items from around the tub ring (shampoo, conditioner, razors).
- Keep lid down and install toilet lock to prevent child from playing in toilet. Child could fall in and drown.
- Install cabinet locks to prevent children from getting into the medicine cabinet and sink cabinet. Ensure you purchase only child-resistant products.
- Ensure that the bathroom door doesn't lock. If privacy is required, install a latch at your eye level to prevent people from entering.

### Playrooms:

- Check all toys for small parts and discard any items that may pose a choking hazard.
- Purchase toys recommended for the age of your child.
- Toy chests should have safety supports to prevent the lid from falling on a child's head.
- Never store toys on the top of furniture or on shelves in a closet.
- Children may fall while climbing to reach these toys.
- Use a room monitor for listening to children while playing.



### Garage and Outdoor Safety:

- Use only garage door openers with automatic stopping devices. These doors will automatically reopen if they sense an obstruction.
- Remove the doors from an old refrigerator if using it for storage.
- Keep hazardous chemicals out of the reach of children.
- Store tools in their proper place after use.
- Keep swimming pool covered, ladder properly stowed, and gates to the pool locked to prevent children from entering the pool without supervision.
- Never leave water stand in Kiddie Pools. Always empty after use and turn upside down so rainwater won't fill the pool.
- Use rail netting or other protections to prevent children from squeezing through deck or porch railing.
- Use safety gates to protect children from stairs.

